REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed. A substitute specification and marked-up copy of the original specification are enclosed. No new matter is added to these documents.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A mechanical connection [between side walls and the rear wall of a sheet-metal casing, characterized in that the]comprising:

a sheet metal casing having a base part, a pair of side walls and a rear wall [of the sheet-metal casing comprise]all formed from a single sheet-metal part[,]; [in that the side walls have]

a cutout formed in each of the side walls in the region of the top rear corner[,]; [and in that the rear wall has]

an angled section formed on the rear wall; and

[which, on its sides, has]hook-like extensions provided at sides of the angled section, which hook-like extensions snap into the cutouts of the side walls when the [actual] rear wall is swung into position.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) The mechanical connection as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that]wherein the hook-like extensions [have outwardly running slopes in their front regions]are sloped such that the width increases from a front to a back of the hook-like extensions.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) The mechanical connection as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that]wherein the hook-like extensions are formed integrally with the angled section.

Please ADD the following claim.

4. (NEW) A casing comprising:

a base, a pair of side walls and a rear wall all formed from a single sheet of material, such that when assembled each side wall is adjacent to one side of the rear wall;

a cutout formed in each of the side walls in the region of the where the side wall adjoins the rear wall; and

a pair of hook-like extensions extending from the rear wall at positions corresponding to the cutouts such that when assembled, each hook-like extension snaps into a cutout.

MARKED-UP COPY OF ORIGINAL SPECIFICATION

[Description]TITLE OF THE INVENTION

MECHANICAL [CONNECTION]LINK BETWEEN SIDE WALLS AND THE REAR WALL OF A SHEET[-METAL] CASING

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] This application is based on and hereby claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/00955 filed on March 29, 2000 and German Application No. DE 299 05 811.5 filed on March 30, 1999 in Germany, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[002] The present invention relates to a mechanical connection between the side walls and the rear wall of a sheet-metal casing.

[003] The mechanical connection between the side walls of a sheet-metal casing and the rear wall usually takes place by [means of] additional measures, e.g. welding, riveting, screwing, adhesive bonding, etc. and/or by [means of] additional manipulating operations, such as, for example, bending lugs, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[004] The object of the present invention is to specify a mechanical connection of the type mentioned in the introduction which can be produced without additional measures being required.

[005] One possible way to achieve the[This] object is [achieved for]with a mechanical connection of the type mentioned above in that the base part, side walls and rear wall of the sheet-metal casing comprise a single sheet-metal part, in that the side walls have a cutout in the region of the top rear corner, and in that the rear wall has an angled section which, on its sides, has hook-like extensions which snap into the cutouts of the side walls when the actual rear wall is swung into position.

[006] In the case of the mechanical connection according to the invention, the blank of the sheet-metal part, which forms, inter alia, the side walls and the rear wall, is configured such that, during the bending operation immediately after the rear wall has been swung into position, [said]the rear wall is forced to snap into the side walls, and mechanical connection between the side walls and the rear wall is thus produced. The additional measures mentioned above [are thus]may be dispensed with.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[007] [Further advantageous configurations of the mechanical connection according to the invention can be gathered from the subclaims and from the following description of an exemplary embodiment of the mechanical connection according to the invention with reference to the drawing, in which:]These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the preferred embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

[Figure]Fig. 1 shows the completed mechanical connection,

[Figure]Fig. 2 shows a view of part of a side wall and of the rear wall just before the rear wall snaps into the side walls, and

[Figures]Figs. 3 to 5 show different states during the operation of the rear wall snapping into the side walls.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[008] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout.

[009] [Figure]Fig. 1 shows a casing part with a mechanical connection according to the present invention, the casing part comprising the base part 1, the side walls 2 and the rear wall 3.

[0010] [Figure]Fig. 2 shows the specifics of the details. The side walls 2 have a cutout 4 in the top rear corner. The actual rear wall 3 has an angled section 5, which is produced before the rear wall 3 is actually swung into position. It is conceivable here for it to be possible for the angled section 5 to be produced at the same time as the side walls 2 are swung into position.

[0011] The angled sections 5 of the rear wall 3 have hook-like extensions 6 on each of their sides. These hook-like extensions 6 are preferably likewise parts of the single sheet-metal part and each have an outwardly running slope 7 in their front region. When the rear wall 3 is swung into position, [said]the slope slides against the side walls 2, which have already been swung into position, and pushes them apart from one another until the hook-like extensions 6 can pass into the cutouts 4.

[0012] This operation is illustrated in [figures]Figs. 3 to 5. Once the hook-like extensions 6 have passed into the cutouts 4, the rear wall springs back, with the result that the side walls 2 and the

rear wall 3 are hooked together. Fig. 3 shows the relative positions of the rear wall 3 and the side wall 2 before engagement. Fig. 4 shows the relative positions of the rear wall 3 and the side wall 2 after the rear wall 3 is moved between the side walls 2. Fig. 5 shows the relative positions of the rear wall 3 and the side wall 2 after the rear wall 3 springs back to hook the rear wall 3 to the side wall 2.

[0013] The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to preferred embodiments thereof and examples, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.